



School Zone Cameras: Chatham County supports establishing a more defined and consistent timeline for the operation of school zone cameras to enhance public trust and traffic safety. Additionally, we advocate for the use of camera-generated funds to support local law enforcement activities that further protect school communities.

SPLOST Expenditure Revision: Chatham County requests revision to state law to allow SPLOST funds to be used for major stormwater canal maintenance, similar to their permitted use for road resurfacing. Expanding eligibility would provide local governments with critical flexibility to address infrastructure needs and protect communities from flooding and environmental hazards.



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Chatham County 2026 State Policy Statements



Priority 1

Fire Fund

Chatham County encourages the state delegation and General Assembly to authorize alternative revenue sources, as intended in the Special Districts Clause, for fees, assessments, and taxes to fund fire protection services based on square footage and type of dwelling. O.C.G.A. § 25-3-4 specifically grants “The governing body of each county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state shall have the power to enact such ordinances, regulations, or fire and life safety codes as may be necessary to carry out this article and to fund fire protection services in fire districts with fees, assessments, or taxes.

Priority 2

Infrastructure Funding

Given the sustained economic growth in our community, continued support for funding major infrastructure projects is essential to maintaining momentum and ensuring long-term prosperity. Strategic investment in transportation, utilities, and public facilities not only supports current demand but also positions our region for future expansion. By prioritizing infrastructure development, we enhance quality of life, attract new businesses, create jobs, and strengthen the foundation for continued economic resilience. Chatham County strongly encourages policymakers to maintain and expand funding commitments for these critical initiatives.

Priority 3

Recreational Facilities

Chatham County is committed to enhancing community well-being by supporting a diverse range of recreational facilities that meet the evolving needs of all residents. We recognize the importance of pursuing a broad and sustainable funding strategy to support the development, maintenance, and improvement of these facilities. To this end, we request support of the delegation to explore diversification of funding sources to ensure accessible, high-quality recreational opportunities for current and future generations.

Other Legislative Matters

Childcare Tax Credit: Chatham County supports the request from local businesses for the state delegation to review and revise the childcare tax structure, with the goal of providing incentives or relief for

employers that offer childcare vouchers or services. Supporting these businesses strengthens workforce development by helping working families access affordable and reliable childcare.

Child Support Capacity: The Chatham County Child Support Services Office is committed to ensuring children receive the financial and emotional support of both parents through fair, efficient, and respectful services that establish, enforce, and modify child support orders. To sustain and strengthen these essential efforts, we respectfully request continued financial support to maintain service quality, meet growing demands, and improve outcomes for families and children in our community.

Disaster Response and Recovery Fee: Chatham County and The Emergency Management Association of Georgia support amending state law to allow counties to apply a \$3 fee to vehicle registrations to fund Disaster Recovery and Emergency Preparedness. As local governments face increasing responsibility for disaster response, this optional funding mechanism would empower counties to build dedicated resources and reduce reliance on federal aid.

Farmers Market: Chatham County seeks support for the improvement of the local farmers market facility to ensure it aligns with current health and safety practices. Upgrading the infrastructure will promote public health, support local growers, and enhance access to fresh, healthy food for the community.

Heirs’ Property: Chatham County Probate Court supports a comprehensive review and revision of heirs’ property legislation to reduce legal confusion and barriers to clear title, particularly in cases involving multiple heirs. Clarifying ownership rights and streamlining resolution processes are essential to preserving family land, preventing involuntary loss of property, and mitigating the impacts of gentrification in vulnerable communities. Revisit the definition of “interested persons” and allow courts to temporarily assign an administrator when no legal documentation identifies a proper person.

Hotel/Motel Tax: Chatham County respectfully requests consideration of an increase in its allocation from 6 percent. Increased funds will be used for enforcement with Short-Term Rental properties and ordinances.

Renewable Energy: We support expanding renewable energy options and providing incentives for residents to adopt clean energy solutions. These efforts promote environmental sustainability, reduce utility costs, and strengthen energy independence in our communities.